



Billing Code 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. FSIS-2016-0024]

Codex Alimentarius Commission: Meeting of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Food

AGENCY: Office of the Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of the Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), are sponsoring a public meeting on September 22, 2016. The objective of the public meeting is to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft United States (U.S.) positions to be discussed at the 23rd Session of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF) of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex), taking place in Houston, Texas, October 17-21, 2016. The Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety and the FDA recognize the importance of providing interested parties the opportunity to obtain background information on the 23rd Session of the CCRVDF and to address items on the agenda.

DATES: The public meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 22, 2016, from 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will take place at the USDA, Jamie L. Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 107-A, Washington, DC 20250.

Documents related to the 23rd Session of the CCRVDF will be accessible via the Internet at the following address:

<http://www.codexalimentarius.org/meetings-reports/en/>.

Brandi Robinson, U.S. Delegate to the 23rd Session of the CCRVDF, invites U.S. interested parties to submit their comments electronically to the following e-mail address:

Brandi.Robinson@fda.hhs.gov.

CALL-IN-NUMBER:

If you wish to participate in the public meeting for the 23rd Session of the CCRVDF by conference call, please use the following call-in-number:

Call-in-Number: 1-888-844-9904

The participant code will be posted on the following Web page:

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/international-affairs/us-codex-alimentarius/public-meetings>

REGISTRATION:

Attendees may register to attend the public meeting by e-mailing uscodex@fsis.usda.gov by September 16, 2016. Early registration is encouraged as it will expedite entry into the building. The meeting will be held in a Federal building. Attendees should bring photo identification and plan for adequate time to pass through the security screening systems. Attendees who are not able to attend the meeting in person, but who wish to participate, may do so by phone.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE 23rd SESSION OF THE CCRVDF

CONTACT: Brandi Robinson, ONADE International Coordinator, Center for Veterinary Medicine, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, 7500 Standish Place, HFV-100, Rockville, MD 20855. Telephone: (240) 402-0645, E-mail: Brandi.Robinson@fda.hhs.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE PUBLIC MEETING CONTACT:

Kenneth Lowery, U.S. Codex Office, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, South Agriculture Building, Room 4861, Washington, DC 20250. Telephone: (202) 690-4042, Fax: (202) 720-3157, E-mail: Kenneth.Lowery@fsis.usda.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Codex was established in 1963 by two United Nations organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization (FAO/WHO). Through adoption of food standards, codes of practice, and other guidelines developed by its committees, and by promoting their adoption and implementation by governments, Codex seeks to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade.

The CCRVDF is responsible for determining priorities for the consideration of residues of veterinary drugs in foods, recommending maximum levels of such substances, developing codes of practice as may be required, and considering methods of sampling and analysis for the determination of veterinary drug residues in foods.

The Committee is hosted by the United States.

Issues to be Discussed at the Public Meeting

The following items on the Agenda for the 23rd Session of the CCRVDF will be discussed during the public meeting:

- Matters referred to the Committee by Codex or its subsidiary bodies;
- Matters of interest arising from the FAO/WHO and from the 81st Meeting of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA);

- Report of the World Organisation for Animal Health activities, including the International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products;
- Proposed draft Risk Management Recommendations (RMR) for gentian violet at Step 3;
- Proposed draft Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for ivermectin (cattle muscle) and lasalocid sodium (chicken, turkey, quail, and pheasant kidney, liver, muscle, skin and fat) at Step 4;
- Proposed draft MRLs for ivermectin (cattle fat, kidney, muscle), teflubenzuron (salmon fillet, muscle) and zilpaterol hydrochloride (cattle fat, kidney, liver, muscle) at Step 3;
- Discussion paper on the unintended presence of residues of veterinary drugs in food commodities resulting from the carry-over of drug residues into feed;
- Discussion paper on the establishment of a rating system to establish priority for the CCRVDF work;
- Global survey to provide information to the CCRVDF to move compounds from the database on countries' needs for MRLs to

the JECFA Priority List (Report of Environmental Working Group) and Database on countries' needs for MRLs;

- Draft priority list of veterinary drugs requiring evaluation or re-evaluation by JECFA; and
- Other Business & Future Work.

Each issue listed will be fully described in documents distributed, or to be distributed, by the Secretariat before the Meeting. Members of the public may access or request copies of these documents (see ADDRESSES).

Public Meeting

At the September 22, 2016, public meeting, draft U.S. positions on the agenda items will be described and discussed, and attendees will have the opportunity to pose questions and offer comments. Written comments may be offered at the meeting or sent to the U.S. Delegate for the 23rd Session of the CCRVDF, Brandi Robinson (see ADDRESSES). Written comments should state that they relate to the activities of the 23rd Session of the CCRVDF.

Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, FSIS will announce this

Federal Register publication on-line through the FSIS Web page located at: <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/federal-register>.

FSIS also will make copies of this publication available through the FSIS Constituent Update, which is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, Federal Register notices, FSIS public meetings, and other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to our constituents and stakeholders. The Update is available on the FSIS Web page. Through the Web page, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader, more diverse audience. In addition, FSIS offers an e-mail subscription service which provides automatic and customized access to selected food safety news and information. This service is available at:

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/subscribe>. Options range from recalls to export information, regulations, directives, and notices. Customers can add or delete subscriptions themselves, and have the option to password protect their accounts.

USDA Non-Discrimination Statement

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Send your completed complaint form or letter to USDA by mail, fax, or email:

Mail:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Director, Office of Adjudication
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250-9410

Fax: (202) 690-7442

E-mail: program.intake@usda.gov

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.), should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

Done at Washington, DC on July 19, 2016.

Paulo Almeida,

U.S. Manager for Codex Alimentarius

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